

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, April 18, 1861.

Notice.

Jas. Griggs our agent, is now engaged in managing Penobscot County, Maine.

M. HIRAN P. WEEKS, in Lincoln and Knox counties.

The Last Argument.

The men who now control the direction of public affairs in the States that have seceded from the General Government, have at length resorted to the settlement of matters at issue between themselves and the Government, to open hostilities, and have invoked the dire arbitrament of arms.

The little body of men in Fort Sumter had nearly consumed their stock of provisions; and at this juncture the general in command at Charleston cut them off from receiving any further supplies from that city, thus forcing upon the government the alternative of supplying them, or, of tamely surrendering its property and authority in the harbor of Charleston to the rebel authorities, and thus virtually acknowledging their independence, and its own want of power to protect itself. From the best information we yet get we believe the administration, in its desire to avoid every appearance of needless irritation, went so far as to propose to withdraw Major Anderson and his men from the fort, leaving only

a sentinel and a couple of men to take charge of the property, until matters again settled down; at this proposition was rejected at once. Nothing would satisfy these men but an unconditional surrender of the fort and all its armament to the confederate States. Such a proposition as this could not, of course, be listened to for a moment, and they were told that the Government would supply the fort with provisions, peaceably if practicable, forcibly if necessary. Order were accordingly given to forward supplies of provisions, and a naval force was dispatched to assist, if necessary, in getting supplies into the fort.

This has opened a sad and terrible chapter of our history, inaugurating for the first time in our existence as a nation, a war among our own people—a people descended from the same common ancestry, and bound together by a thousand ties of kindred, of interest and patriotic memories inherited by us in common.

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Such a course is the only one that will strengthen us in the States that have already seceded, and the only one that will prevent the further spread of secession. It will rally the friends of the Union in those States and give them something to fight for. It will divide and distract the enemies of the country, and give its friends new heart and new hope everywhere.

Since the above was written, dispatches were received here on Sunday announcing the continued bombardment of Fort Sumter, and its probable reduction, which the later dispatches have happily confirmed. The President promptly issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 soldiers from the several States to defend the Capital, and assist him in executing the laws; and has called an extra session of Congress to be held on the Fourth of July. The Government shows its determination to maintain its authority, and it remains for the people to rally as one man to its support. That they will do so there can be no doubt. Too many glorious memories cluster around the stars and stripes—they have floated victoriously through so many hard fought battles now to be struck and deserted at the dictation of rebels, traitors and thieves.

CALL UPON MAINE. We learn that a requisition has been made by the General Government upon Maine for a regiment of troops for immediate service. Gov. Washburn has promptly called a special session of the Legislature to assemble in this city on Monday next, 22d inst., to take action in reference to the present state of national affairs. The State will respond with alacrity to the call, and strengthen the hands of the Administration to the utmost of its power in the maintenance of its lawful authority.

THE COUNTY RECONCILY. This is the title of a new visitor to our sanctum, published in Farmington by J. S. Swift, Esq. It is well-filled and hand-somely printed, and we wish it success it will undoubtedly deserve. We are somewhat skeptical, however, as to the need of three newspapers in Franklin county, at least so long as newspaper enterprise and outlay are so poorly encouraged and rewarded as they now are. Wisdom, however, in this respect, as in most others, is rarely obtained in any other school than that of experience. The summer moth will never believe that the candle-flame can burn him until he finds it. Everybody likes to "see the folly of it" for himself.

Gov. Washburn arrived in this city on Tuesday morning in the train from Bangor. He was loudly cheered by the people assembled in the depot, and on being called upon for a speech, requested to be excused as his duty now is, not speech but action!

THE LAWS. We shall this week commence striking off our edition of the Public Laws, and shall immediately supply all orders received from other publishers. Our subscribers will be furnished with a copy next week folded in their papers.

MAIL LETTERS. The decisions of the Postmaster General on the proposals received for conveying the mails for four years from July 1, 1861, in New York and the New England States, will be announced at the Post Office Department, Washington, on Thursday, April 18, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The steamer T. F. Seor arrived at her wharf in this city on Fast Day and is now making her regular trips to Portland and back on alternate days. When the new steamer now building is completed there will be daily steamboat communication between this city and Portland.

The Steamer Eastern Queen commenced her trips between Hallowell and Boston, on Monday last.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN

THE NEGOTIATIONS PRECEDING THE ATTACK.—

The following, taken from the Baltimore American gives a concise and apparently authentic summary of the negotiations between the Government and the rebel authorities preceding the attack and capture of Fort Sumter by the rebel forces. It will be seen that the position taken by the rebels admitted of no alternative but an ignominious surrender of the fort or an attempt to relieve it. There is not a man who is loyal to the Union, and has a spark of patriotism, who will not justify the President in adopting the latter course:

"The difficulty that has arisen with regard to the proposed evacuation of Fort Sumter, and the present position of affairs are, as near as can be ascertained, as follows:

Nearly four weeks since the President and Cabinet, on the representation of Gen. Scott, decided to evacuate Fort Sumter as a military necessity—that is to say, the reinforcing and provisioning of it was not deemed essential, in view of the cost of blood and treasure it would require to accomplish the purpose. The decision of the President was communicated to Major Anderson by a special messenger, with instructions to open negotiations with the military authorities at Charleston to carry out the project into execution.

These negotiations have been progressing ever since, and the numerous messengers that have been passing between Charleston and Washington have communicated to Major Anderson the instructions of the government, and to the President the demands of the authorities of the Southern Confederacy. It is understood that Major Anderson, and his men surrendered their property, and the fort, but, of course, surrendered its property and authority in the harbor of Charleston to the rebel authorities, and thus virtually acknowledging their independence, and its own want of power to protect itself. From the best information we yet get we believe the administration, in its desire

to avoid every appearance of needless irritation, went so far as to propose to withdraw Major Anderson and his men from the fort, leaving only

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Immediately after this decision orders were given for the military and naval preparations that have since occasioned so much excitement, the object being to use them, if necessary, in relieving the garrison of Major Anderson from threatened starvation, and to vindicate the honor of the government and the honor of the flag in Charleston harbor; or if not required, to dispatch the unopposed attack is made upon its fort because it refused to evacuate that fort upon the demand of men who are in open armed rebellion to its authority, and acting in defiance of its power. There must be no treating with traitors in arms. The very existence of the Government depends upon this. Any hesitation on its part, any vacillating or uncertain policy at such a moment as this, must prove the fruitful source of evil hereafter. Firm, vigorous and decisive measures on the part of the administration are what the crisis imperatively demands. Such a course will be sustained and maintained by the people. They have too much at stake in this Government to willingly look on and see it destroyed by traitors—they demand that no means shall be spared that will tend to preserve it.

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AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

CIVIL WAR INAUGURATED: I

FORT SUMTER ATTACKED!

SURRENDER OF THE FORT:

PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

75,000 TROOPS CALLED OUT!

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.

Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania offer Troops.

THE COUNTRY SUSTAINS THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MAINE

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

FORT PICKENS TO OPEN FIRE.
FEELING OF THE BORDER STATES.
VOLUNTEER TENDER OF SERVICES.

Call upon the States.

New York, 15th. Special dispatch to the Post from Washington intimates that such orders have been sent to Lieut. Slemmons that he will probably fire without waiting for an attack to be made to make it stronger than the rest of the Confederacy. There are more local military affairs of interest to Government to-day. Some Maryland troops will probably soon be called to assist in defense of the Capitol.

Special despatch from Washington to the Commercial says, the order that the Massachusetts troops should hasten to Washington has been countermanded, and they are to remain in their service ready for orders from the War Department.

The steamer Philadelphia is rapidly loading guns and munitions, and may carry troops South. She is nearly ready for sea.

The 7th and 8th Regiments, it is understood, hold themselves in readiness for service. A number of volunteer companies are to be formed, and Gen. Ward of the Scott Light Guards is expected to receive the organization; a regiment of which he will command.

Orders have been received from Washington to fill up the Federal Regiments as speedily as possible. The recruiting offices were crowded to-day.

Mobile, 15th. President Lincoln's response to Virginia Commissioners is considered as a declaration of war.

RICHMOND, Va., 15th. President Lincoln's proclamation receives general execution. The public mind is fearfully excited. Secessionists declare that it is now favorable to the border states. Military men say they would sooner die than respond to such a call.

WILMINGTON, N. C., 15th. President's proclamation received with contempt and indignation. Union men denounce the administration. Great rejoicing here at news of reduction of Fort Sumter.

WASHINGTON, 15th. The following is the form of recall on the respective State Government for troops issued to day through the War Department:

"Sir—Under the act of Congress calling out the Militia to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrection and repel invasion, &c., approved Feb. 27, 1861, I have the honor to request your Excellency to cause to be detached from the militia of your State the quota designated, as soon as possible, for the service for three months, unless sooner discharged. Your Excellency will please to communicate to me the time at which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous. It will be met as soon as practicable by an officer or officers to muster it into the service and pay of the U. S.

A sum of \$100 per month of full pay will be administered to every officer and man. The master-officers will be instructed to receive no man under the rank of commissioned officer over 45 or under 18 years of age, or who is not in physical strength and vigor. Quota for each State is as follows: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Illinois, 6 each; Pennsylvania, 16; New York, 17; Arkansas 1; North Carolina, 2; Maryland 4; Virginia, 3.

It is ordered that each Regiment consist of 780 officers and men. The total thus called is 73,391. This is to be composed of troops of the District of Columbia, then comes 7,400.

War Department by telegraph to-day accepted Gov. Sprague's offer of Rhode Island Regiment; he is requested to send them to Washington without delay.

EXHIBITION PALACE OF 1862. This structure is to exceed its illustrious predecessor in grandeur, beauty of design, and elegance of finish. The main hall will be 550 feet long, 250 wide, and 220 feet high. The picture galleries, built of brick, will be 2300 feet long, 60 to 70 feet high, and from 35 to 55 feet wide. The nave and transepts are to be 2200 feet long, 80 feet wide, and 100 feet high. The sheds and other necessary buildings are planned on a corresponding scale. The whole work must be finished in less than two years from the present time, or by the fall of the following year. The building will be open to the public at a nominal charge, and the cost of the exhibition will be defrayed by the admission fees.

The British Ambassador at Constantinople has protested against the embarkation of the Russian fleet at the Dardanelles, and the Porte has given way to his demands. The Powers insisted upon a compliance with their demand.

A singularly quiet had occurred at Sippa between the German and Roumanian inhabitants, on the occasion of the elections. Three were killed, and fifteen seriously and many slightly wounded.

Histories continued in Herzegovina between the Serbs and the Turks, 15th.

The Porte is said to have refused to submit to the demand of the great Powers before pronouncing of the reforms it intends to grant, apprehending that Russia might again take up the project of a permanent conference at Constantinople. The Powers insisted upon a compliance with their demand.

The Austrian officers regard hostilities as probable. It is said that 50,000 Austrian troops are in movement in Venetia.

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